

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry comprising:
 - determining a secure password;
 - providing a system or file;
 - providing the secure password to a password database independent of the system and the file storage therein in association with a security level;
 - providing the secure password to a password sub-system for securing the determined system or file;
 - determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password, the user authorization method determined in dependence upon the security level and some user authorization having different associated security levels than others;
 - authorizing an individual according to the ~~secure~~ determined user authorization method; and
 - when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to the system or file password subsystem for accessing the system or file wherein the system or file is accessible by manually entering the secure password to the password sub-system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein determining the secure password comprises automatically determining the secure password.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 2 wherein the determined secure password is secret and remains inaccessible to users of the system.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the password database comprises a key data file.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 4 wherein the password database is stored within a portable storage medium.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein determining the secure password comprises manually providing the secure password to a password entry sub-system; and recording the password during entry.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the password is stored in association with data indicative of the determined system or file.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the determined system or file is stored in association with data indicative of the password.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of providing improved security for files accessible by password data entry comprising:

selecting a secured data file;

providing a password database;

automatically determining a secure password identifier associated with the secured data file;

determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password identifier, some user authorization methods having different associated security levels than others;

authorizing an individual according to the ~~secure~~ determined user authorization method; and

when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to a selected secured file password entry subsystem.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for files accessible by password data entry a defined in claim 9 wherein the password database comprises a plurality of passwords and wherein determining a secure password identifier comprises determining a password from the plurality of passwords for use in accessing data within the secured data file.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry comprising:

determining a plurality of files secured with the first password;
providing authorizing a change from the first password to a second other password for securing the plurality of files;
for each file secured with the first password, accessing the file with the first password and securing the file with the second other password; and,
storing the second other password in a password database.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 comprising:

archiving the first password for use in accessing archival files secured with the first password.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 comprising:

authorizing an individual requesting a change of the first password prior to changing the first password.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 13 wherein authorizing the individual requesting the change comprises:

determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password; and,

authorizing an individual according to the ~~secure~~ determined user authorization method.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein determining a plurality of files secured with the first password comprises determining from the password database, files associated with the first password.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 15 wherein those files associated with the first password are identified because they are identified by an identifier associated with the first password.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein determining a plurality of

files secured with the first password comprises determining from accessible files, those files associated with the first password.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein providing a second other password includes automatically generating the second other password.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 18 wherein the method is automatically repeated at intervals.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 19 wherein the method is automatically repeated upon detection of a breach of the first password and upon expiry of the first password.